

VICTORY



PHOTO BY BRANDON WISE/THE BEACON

With voter turnout up 44 percent of the student population, Laura Farinas and Alex Castro clinched the win for president and vice president of Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus. In Panther Square, the results of Biscayne Bay Campus' uncontested presidential elections announced Pablo Haspel and Oluwatobi Adekoya the winners.



PHOTO BY ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON



PHOTO BY SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

COLLEGE OF LAW

Students, faculty come together for annual Law Week

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From March 27 through March 29, the law school was abuzz as the Student Bar Association brought together students and faculty for Law Week.

"Law Week is on the Student

Bar Association's agenda from day one," said Robert Scavone Jr., president of the SBA. "There are three objectives to Law week; building camaraderie among the students, creating events where the students and faculty can have fun together and creating time throughout the day where students can take a break from studying to have

some fun."

In preparation for the annual Barrister's Ball, which was held March 31, the Student Bar Association and affiliate groups at the law school hosted a number of events for law students to enjoy.

"Traditionally, the entire SBA Board chips in to make sure Law Week is a success,"

Scavone said. "This year was no different; however, we also teamed up with the Hispanic Law Students Association this year."

Students were invited on March 27 to the large courtroom to listen to guest speaker Robert Coppel, director of training and professionalism for the Public Defender's Office.

"Inspirational People in Criminal Law" featured Coppel speaking about his experiences as a felony trial and training attorney.

All students who had an interest in criminal law were invited to attend the event.

The following evening,

SEE LAW, PAGE 2

SIPA

International relations alum receives fellowship

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An FIU international relations alum was selected to as one of the recipients for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs

Graduate Fellowship, which includes \$90,000 to pursue a master's program, two internships, and three years of work in the United States Foreign Service.

"I am extremely humbled by the opportu-

nity to join a community of Rangel Fellows that are currently serving all over the world," said Abdel Perera, who became the third FIU student to be selected for the program.

Perera was among 20 candidates selected out

of more than 200 applicants nation-wide for the Rangel graduate program, which this year had two FIU students in the finals.

According to Perera, he was meet with candidates from Harvard, Georgetown and American University.

Though he said he felt prepared because of his training with the University's Center for Excellence in Writing.

The fellowship is a program that seeks to attract and prepare qualified individuals for

careers in the Foreign Service in which they can "help formulate, represent and implement U.S. foreign policy."

"The Rangel Fellowship was a highly compet-

SEE RANGEL, PAGE 2

COMING UP | News

Check out Monday's issue for coverage of the Students for Justice in Palestine lecture featuring Leila Farsakh, professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Rubio: ‘I’m not going to be vice president’

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio says Republican Mitt Romney will win the White House, but not with Rubio on the ticket.

Rubio was asked about his prospects during an appearance Wednesday in Palm Beach Gardens. He said: “I’m not going to be the vice president.”

The tea party favorite also was asked about a suggestion by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush that Rubio is the clear choice to be Romney’s running mate. Rubio responded by returning the favor and saying he thinks the former governor would be a great vice president.

NATIONAL

Students angry over pricey courses pepper-sprayed

Campus police pepper-sprayed as many as 30 demonstrators after Santa Monica College students angry over a plan to offer high-priced courses tried to push their way into a trustees meeting, authorities said.

Raw video posted on the Internet Tuesday evening showed students chanting “Let us in, let us in” and “No cuts, no fees, education should be free.”

Students were angry because only a handful were allowed into the meeting room, and when their request to move the meeting to a larger venue was denied, they began to enter the room, said David Steinman, an environmental advocate who is running for Congress as a Green Party candidate.

Two officers were apparently backed up against a wall, and began using force to keep the students out of the room.

– Compiled by *Melhor Leonor*

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 82 of *The Beacon* in the At the Bay section, the article titled “Increase in gas prices a deciding factor in daily commute,” the photo was taken by Katherine Mas, not Andres Bedoya.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

BREAK IT DOWN



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

The Pi Kappa Phi fraternity competed in a team choreographed dance competition for Beta Breakdown on April 3. All proceeds from the event went towards the chapter’s philanthropy.

Perera wins \$90,000 scholarship

RANGEL, PAGE 1

itive process, having national student talent from various Ivy League schools, it was inspiring to see that two of us from FIU made it to the final round of interviews,” said Perera. “I was ecstatic to be a part of the final group.”

The program, named after the U.S. representative from New York, gives a \$90,000 scholarship for pursuing a two-year master’s degree in fields such as political science, international affairs and foreign languages.

The fellowship is

also characterized by the opportunity of internships and work in the Foreign Service.

Perera hopes to for an internship with a member of Congress from Florida, particularly with Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

He feels the congresswoman has “a strong presence in foreign affairs and she also graduated from FIU. But I’m open to anything.”

To prepare for the fellowship, Perera completed three internships with the Department of State, including one in Montevideo, Uruguay.

“I have a long road ahead in training to become a foreign service officer, but I am looking forward to continue setting the stage for future FIU students,” said Perera, who majored in political science and international relations while at

“
I am extremely humbled by the opportunity to join a community of Rangel Fellows that are currently serving all over the world.”
Abdel Perera,
Alum
FIU

the University.

Perera found out about the program through Hilarion Martinez, associate dean of undergraduate studies and former diplomat in residence

“FIU students should do what Abdel did. His interest in becoming an American diplomat was sparked in my diplomacy class,” said Martinez. “He applied for and was not selected for another international fellowship but that did not stop him. He then pursued the Rangel and won.”

“I received great guid-

ance from Mr. Martinez, and from FIU alumnus Raphael Garcia,” said Perera.

Last year, political science alum Raphael Garcia received the fellowship, and is now studying at American University, in Washington D.C.

Perera is now awaiting acceptance into Rangel partner schools, and is considering the University’s Global Governance Program.

As part of his fellowship, he will do an internship in Capitol Hill and one abroad.

Week concludes with ball

LAW, PAGE 1

SBA hosted a Rock Band Night. The students had set up a band ensemble in the large courtroom and were equipped to have up to three vocalists. The event took place between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and dinner was provided.

To top it off, SBA and the Hispanic Law Students Association held Salsa Night on March 29.

Salsa night featured volunteer instructors from within the law school student body who gave lessons to those who

requested them.

“The SBA and HLSA co-hosted ‘Salsa Night’ with the current HLSA President, Christina Vilaboa, and other HLSA members giving salsa lessons, while the SBA provided paella,” Scavone

said.

“Both nights were hits among the students.”

Law week ended with the Barristers’ ball, where the SBA announced the members of the association for the following year.

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ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Christine Seredni (above) will play in their final match at FIU on April 6.

TENNIS

Two seniors hope to make final match memorable

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Friday, April 6, will be the final time Lisa Johnson and Christine Seredni suit up for a home match. Panther fans can say goodbye to the team's seniors as they play host to Fresno State.

The Panthers will be honoring Johnson and Seredni and reflect their tenure at FIU. Johnson, who transferred from University of Utah in 2010, is still in disbelief that her collegiate career is coming to an end.

"I have mixed feelings because I really don't feel like it's over. I guess on the actual day I feel very sad," Johnson said.

According to Johnson, she developed some of the most memorable moments and relationships with her teammates at FIU and will remain to linger in her memory.

"Winning the conference tournament last year was a memorable and great experience," Johnson said. "Everyday practice and the jokes [the teammates] make with one another and all the insides things I really enjoyed."

Over her two years at FIU, Johnson accumulated a 23-27 record in singles play and a 25-21 record in doubles play, going 3-0 last season in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Seredni, a Virginia native, missed five matches in her final season and is looking forward to moving on with her life.

"It's bittersweet. I'm going to miss my teammates and I am going to miss playing, but I am looking forward to moving on from tennis," Seredni said. "I have learned to work together as a team

of women who are from different parts of the world. I know that will help me out later in life.

Working with a coach like Melissa [Applebaum-Dall'au], who we don't usually see eye-to-eye, has prepared me for the real world and problems I might have in the future."

Relocating from a small town in Richmond, Va to a city full of glitz and glamour in Miami, Seredni attributes Miami as the one thing that has impacted her the most while her time at FIU.

"I mean I'm from Richmond, Virginia, which is a very conservative place. So coming here to Miami, I was a bit close-minded and Miami has really opened my mind up," Seredni said. "I love how everyone is accepted here."

I really love Miami's culture and the opened mindedness and I'm going to take some of that back with me when I go back home." Former Utah tennis player Johnson has aspirations of becoming a tennis coach after concluding her collegiate career.

"For me, I want to become a tennis coach," Johnson said. "I still want to be around tennis for the rest of my life."

Compared to her experiences back in Utah along with the ones at FIU, Johnson does not see much of a difference.

"It's pretty much the same," Johnson stated. "The most important thing was just being able to bond with the team...I put a lot of emphasis on my fitness so I feel like I have gotten in a lot better shape."

Senior day ceremonies begins 15 minutes prior to the first match followed by the match against Fresno State at 1 p.m.

BASEBALL

Panthers blank Rattlers to take opening game of two-game set

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FIU 13, FAMU 0

Whenever a baseball team records 10 hits in a game, it is considered a successful night on offense. Yet FIU aims for more. "Our goal for hitting is to at least get 13 hits [per game]," said Jabari Henry last week.

On April 2, the Panthers (15-13) hit the number 13 in a category, except it was not in hits. It was in the runs category.

FIU had one of its best nights of the season at the plate and on the mound when it shut out Florida A&M University (5-27) 13-0 to win game one of a two-game series against the Rattlers.

Every starter lineup had at least one hit and one run in the season-high 13-run, 16-hit output, while senior Mike Martinez and Henry

each hit a home run.

The pitching refused to be outdone, with three pitchers combining for 12 strikeouts and only two walks for the first shutout since April of last year. Right-handed starter Logan Dodds pitched five innings with six strikeouts, making this his second dominant start in as many turns.

Head coach Turtle Thomas even gave two players the chance to make their own personal history in the game.

Redshirt junior Ryne Morozowski recorded his first FIU hit and RBI and freshman right-hander Dylan Benedict made his first collegiate appearance, striking out two in the ninth inning.

The Panthers scored their first run of the night on an RBI single from junior Nathan Burns. They exploded for seven runs in the third inning, burying the Rattlers hopes of making a comeback.

Martinez and Henry each hit two-run home runs before an out was even recorded in the third inning. FIU added two more runs on a throwing error to make it 8-0.

The Rattlers could not stop the bleeding in the fourth as FIU added three more runs on freshman Oscar Aguirre's triple, a wild pitch and a sacrifice fly.

T.J. Shantz joined the hit parade in the sixth inning when he hit an RBI single to score freshman Julius Gaines and make it 12-0.

Morozowski, making his FIU debut, pinch hit for Aguirre in the seventh inning and singled up the middle to score Henry for the 13th run of the night.

FIU will face off against the Troy Trojans (13-16, 3-6 SBC) tonight at 7 p.m. for game one of a three-game series.

-EDUARDO ALMAGUER



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 4

The offense totaled 32 hits in their series with the FAMU Rattlers between April 3-4.

SOFTBALL

FIU set to clash with worst hitting team in Sun Belt

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After the Panthers lost their first conference series of the year against Troy on April 1, FIU (16-16, 4-3 SBC) will take on the worst hitting team in the Sun Belt. The Panthers will now take on Louisiana-Monroe in a three-game set, which begins on April 6 with a doubleheader at 4 p.m. and 6p.m.

The Warhawks are coming off a big offensive output as they defeated Nicholls State 7-4 on March 28. The win leaves ULM (16-13, 3-6 SBC) in seventh place in the conference, six games behind conference leader Louisiana-Lafayette.

The Warhawks' biggest offensive asset is without question their speed. Despite being the worst hitting team in the conference, ULM uses small-ball to make up

for the lack of bats. The Warhawks rank fourth in the nation and tops in the conference in stolen bases with 2.55 per game, stealing over 50 bases more than the Panthers.

FIU pitchers may want to keep an eye on Miyuki Navarrete, who leads the team with 17 stolen bases so far in 2012.

Those 17 stolen bags have also placed Navarrete as the leader in stolen bases in the conference and also ranks her 31st in the country. In comparison, FIU's stolen base leader is Beth Peller with seven on the year.

ULM also carries three batters in their lineup with a batting average above .340—Karli Wainwright (.388), Alexis Cacioppo (.345) and Janel Salanoa (.341).

But FIU also carries some potent offensive weapons in Ashley McClain. The 2011 Sun Belt Player of the Year

is batting a robust .418 average with 24 runs batted in. Beth Peller is hitting at a .312 average, Kayla Burri is hitting .297 to go with 14 RBI's and Brie Rojas has 20 RBI's on the year.

Although both clubs may bring a potent lineup, FIU's pitching has the slight advantage over the Warhawks.

FIU brings to the table their ace, Mariah Dawson, who carries a 12-8 record into the series with 121 strikeouts, ranking her first in the Sun Belt. ULM counters with Haylie Wilson, who has a 9-2 record and a 3.37 ERA.

The Panthers also bring to the series Jenn Gniadek, who is 4-6 on the year with a 3.35 ERA, and ULM with Stephanie Routzon who is 3-8 with a 3.98 ERA.

FIU lost the series against ULM last season, but leads the all-time series record 12-5.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Panthers will try to control the fourth ranked team in the nation in stolen bases in Louisiana-Monroe. The Warhawks are also first in the Sun Belt in steals per game with 2.55 stolen bags per contest.

Offense continues to stay hot, total 30 runs in last three games

BASEBALL, PAGE 3
FIU 9, FAMU 4

Following a slugfest the previous night, the Panthers bats remained hot and outit the Rattlers 16-6 to get Jose Lazaro his first victory of the year.

FIU did most of their damage in the middle of the game by scoring seven runs from the third-fifth inning to beat FAMU 9-4.

Mike Martinez, who came into the game hitting .356, finished the game hitting 2-2 with two RBI's.

"Coming out against a good team in Florida A&M, you try to do what you can with the pitches that you get, and I got a couple pitches that I got for base hits and luckily there was people on base," said Martinez.

With the win, the Panthers (16-13, 4-5 SBC) have won three straight and sweep FAMU for the season.

"There are four things that can happen when you play a baseball game," said head coach Turtle Thomas. "You can play poorly and win, you can play poorly and lose, you can play good and you can lose and you can play good and you can win. What we did tonight is we won, but we played poorly."

The team combined for four errors making it 56 errors on the year thus far. However, they were able to match their



"We really got to focus on Friday because we face in my opinion the best pitcher in the conference in Tyler Ray."

Mike Martinez,
Senior
Designated Hitter

hitting total of sixteen a night ago against FAMU.

"We really work hard as a team on hitting and Coach Thomas really focuses on hitting the ball the other way and we did that really well these past two games," Martinez said. "We really got to focus on Friday because we face in my opinion the best pitcher in the conference in Tyler Ray."

Mike Martinez kicked things off for the Panthers in the first inning by singling home Pablo Bermudez with two outs to tie the game 1-1. FAMU scored a run in the first when Regina Grant scored on a Jose Lazaro wild pitch while Grant was at third.

His next plate appearance came with yet another RBI as he scored in Nathan Burns in a big third inning for FIU. Bermudez later scored on a throwing error by catcher Corey Franklin, and Adam Kirsch knocked in Martinez

with a single. Kirsch later came around to score off a Oscar Aguirre double to increase the lead to 5-1 by the end of the inning.

The Rattlers countered with three runs of their own in the fourth inning as short stop Jeremy Bajdaun committed two throwing errors which all of the runs came from. Bajdaun was replacing the usual starter Julius Gaines.

FIU would score two more in the fourth, one in the fifth and one in the eighth as John Caballero, Alberto Cardenas and John Costa finished off FAMU allowing zero runs and three hits in the last five innings to secure the win.

The Panthers go deeper into conference play starting Friday, April 6th against Troy for a three game set at home and then April 13th-15th at Louisiana to finish off six consecutive SBC games.

-JACKSON WOLEK

TENNIS

Panthers ready for final match of the season

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The curtains are closing on the 2012 season as FIU (5-13, 2-1 SBC) looks to end the year on a high note, preparing to battle with the No. 49 Fresno State Bulldogs in their season finale.

The Bulldogs look to avenge a 4-2 loss that the Panthers handed them back on Jan. 27 in Athens, Ga.

Senior Lisa Johnson led the pack as the Panthers suspended the Bulldogs in the opening round of the 2012 ITA Kickoff Weekend in Athens. The victory marked the first win of the season for the Panthers.

"We have to jump right from the start, they are really aggressive and they came out with a lot of energy," Johnson commented on the January match versus the Bulldogs. "So we have to make sure right from doubles we come out just as aggressive."

Johnson, who is playing her final home match of her collegiate tennis career, is going into the Fresno match with a more fun approach, but is maintaining a consistent mindset.

"I take every match the same so I wouldn't say I'm going to have a different mindset," Johnson iterated. "I'm definitely going for a more fun match, but I still really want to win since my last home match."

With Coach Applebaum-

Dall'au not in attendance for practice earlier in the week, the girls have taken it upon themselves to prepare for the match and work some key individual things.

"I have been working on mostly my serves and returns," senior Christine Sederndi said. "Serves and returns start every point so I got to make sure I work on those."

Sederndi and Johnson are 5-1 in their last six matches when they team up as a doubles duo. They even take time from practice just to focus primarily on doubles.

"Christine and I work on it sometimes," Johnson said. "We like to take time from our individual workouts and get together and put in our time into doubles."

The Fresno State Bulldogs are coming off a 6-1 thrashing of the Nevada Wolf Pack.

The Bulldogs are undefeated in the Western Athletic Conference, boasting a 3-0 record. Fresno State is led by Marianna Jodoin, a sophomore who currently ranks 47th in the nation.

Jodoin defeated freshman Sarah Mclean (6-3, 6-4) in the last match these teams collided. Mclean, who is enjoying a solid freshman year, looks to avenge that loss if she is pinned up against Jodoin in singles.

"My attitude has to be positive and I just have to stay optimistic," Mclean said. "I have to be aggressive and be ready to take on the match."

DEATH RACE

Alumnus to attempt “world’s toughest race”

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When reading a description of the Spartan Death Race, one may question the sanity of the participants.

According to their website youmaydie.com, “200 ultra-endurance athletes” will fight each other out for the title in a competition that shares almost the same odds as “The Hunger Games”: only 15 percent will complete the race. University alumnus Guillermo “Rhino” Sadir plans to be part of that 15 percent.

“Everyone I know has come to expect me to attempt crazy and unexpected adventures, however, I have never attempted to do such an extreme physical and mental challenge [as this] and some cannot begin to comprehend what is involved in competing at this level.

“Crazy” is usually the first word that comes to their mouth,” said Sadir, who has three degrees from the University including a master’s in Human Resources. The Spartan Death Race is a 40-mile course that takes place in the mountainous woods of Pittsfield, Vermont. Contestants are challenged by 15 to 20 obstacles, physical and mental, that they must complete before the deadline of 48 hours.

Some of the types of hurdles that “Death Racers” can expect are chopping wood for hours, carrying heavy rocks for hours, building a fire, sprinting through dangerous woods, or memorizing a Bible verse and then repeating it after hiking a mountain.

While other obstacle courses may involve similarly brutal physical tasks, the Spartan Death Race takes it to



PHOTO COURTESY OF GUILLERMO SADIR

Guillermo Sadir participates in an obstacle course that includes crawling through mud under barbed wire.

another level by adding in tests that challenge participants’ mental faculty. Another factor that makes this race different from the rest is that no contestant is aware of what is to come until they are already in the race; the developers keep the maps and challenges a secret.

In order to complete a race like this, contestants must train vigorously. Sadir is no newbie to races and extreme obstacle courses. Since turning 40, he has taken on several triathlons and half iron distance races.

This year he completed the North Miami 8-Mile Super Spartan Race. During the registration process for the race, he saw the URL for the Spartan Death Race and registered for it blindly.

But Sadir knew he could not enter the race without the necessary preparation and began training. He and his partner and friend Alan J. Potash meet

every morning at the gym at 5 a.m. Because Sadir’s job requires that he works around the world frequently, he often has to work out in gyms abroad during his travels.

“Being confident enough to know we will finish a challenge, where 90 percent of the participants are expected to fail is enough adrenaline to keep us motivated to meet every morning at 5 a.m. at the gym,” said Sadir.

But Sadir must train mentally, as well as physically. In order to control his mind, he will be using a technique that most men would likely look over.

“When my wife was pregnant with my first child and we took a Lamaze class, they teach that you must use your mind and concentrate to control pain. They teach you to focus. So I guess I’ll be practicing some Lamaze techniques to help me get through the toughest parts of the race,” said Sadir.

“He is very funny, always making

me laugh at the things he thinks of. I guess Lamaze worked for me, so hopefully it will work for him,” said Tiffany Sadir, his wife.

Completing a race like the Spartan Death Race will require more than physical and mental training. In a race where 200 individuals are working towards the same goal, you wonder whether competition overrules camaraderie. Sadir believes that treating the competition like competition may be a misstep.

“In such a long race, I have no choice but to help my colleagues, because I might need their strength at some point,” said Sadir.

Even more than help on the way to the finish line, Sadir also finds that friendships developed during the race are memorable and meaningful.

“In last year’s race, a US Marine and a British Special Forces officer met up a few yards from the finish line

after 30 hours of racing, they looked at each other and realized this experience was more than just about winning but it was about winning well. With few words, they marched side by side and stepped over the finish line together,” said Sadir.

As another source of motivation, Sadir has collected almost a thousand dollars for St. Jude’s Children’s hospital. He and his wife have become long time contributors after spending time in the Target House at St. Jude’s and meeting with some of the young patients.

Racing for charity is not required, but Sadir took up the additional challenge and hopes his story will open up people’s hearts and wallets so he can give more to the hospital. Sadir’s family has benefited from his new passion for racing.

“I am very proud, but also amazed at how he finds new things to find to be active. The last three years have been great for him [and] also our family. My two kids, ages eight and 10, have been doing triathlons and competing in races for the last two years and I even just did my first triathlon and hopefully I’ll be part of some of his crazy races,” said Tiffany Sadir. With the race on June 15th, Sadir has only a few months left to prepare for the challenge of a lifetime.

“I’m hoping I challenge myself to the breaking point and come ahead, so that the second I cross the finish line, I can start thinking of my next challenge, and I already have a few in mind,” said Sadir.

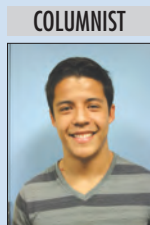
After seeing the story of a double amputee named Scott Riggsby who finished the 140 mile Kona Ironman in Hawaii, Sadir was inspired.

“What excuse can I ever come up with for giving up?” said Sadir.

REEL TO REEL

“American Reunion” not a complete pie to the face

It’s easy to see that Hollywood is addicted to sequels and remakes capitalizing on fan’s loyalty and often on their sense of nostalgia to cash in and make a quick buck. Because of this, it’s not hard to go into a movie like “American Reunion” with a cynical mindset.



JORGE MENDEZ

This film does have a few things going in its favor: it’s the first “American Pie” movie to bring back the original cast since “American Wedding.” Additionally, it is written by John Hurwitz—the same writer of the original “American Pie”—and it is filled with a ton of fan service, which is sure to make any long-time aficionados of the series happy.

Reunion picks up a few years after “American Wedding” and follows the return of the class of

1999 to their hometown for their 13-year high school reunion. After catching up, the group decides—in great American Pie fashion—to make something out of their weekend. However, their level of success can be argued.

All of the original characters that you love and hate are back: Jim, Stifler’s mom, Michelle and even MILF guy #2.

Having the original cast back gives the film a feeling of authenticity; these guys really do seem like a group of lifelong friends who have reunited after years of being apart.

Concerning the film’s plot, it’s nothing new and, in a way, it seems formulaic: Jim has the awkward conversation with his dad, Stifler pulls off some ridiculous pranks and just about everyone in the movie has some sort of relationship problem—Jim’s being especially hilarious.

With that being said, these returning gags do not fail; they are sure to make even the most serious

of audience members put their guard down and let out a chuckle or four. The plot suffers from the occasional sappy scene, which feel forced and unnatural when coming from a group of people like the class of 1999.

As in other “American Pie” movies, the actors’ performances are nothing to write home about. They range from acceptable to cringe-worthy.

Jason Biggs, acting the role of the film’s leading man, Jim, does the usual okay job. Still, if there was an award for best portrayal of someone getting caught with their pants down, Biggs would win it hands down.

Eugene Levy steals the show as Jim’s newly widowed father. He was comical in the other installments, but I am tempted to say he is what makes ‘Reunion.’

Everyone else does an average job, except Sean William Scott. I don’t recall the Stiffmeister having



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICANREUNIONMOVIE.COM

The entire cast of the original “American Pie” is back for a new installment.

always been this bad. His over-the-top and amateur acting may have been forgivable 10 years ago in the original, but it just no longer makes the cut.

Overall, the film as a whole does a fine job of bringing the franchise back to its roots by appealing to both the old die-hard fans as well as the

new generation of troublemakers.

If you watch the movie with an open mind and ignore the cheesy moments, you just might be pleasantly surprised. I give “American Reunion” three pies out of five.

Jorge Mendez is a guest Columnist for Reel to Reel.

MY TURN TO TALK

How to avoid being a jerk: A bartender's guide

You're the customer and you are probably wrong. At the very least, you are definitely not always right. I know you've been told that you are but you are not and this is why: your bartender, salesperson, waitress or waiter is definitely more of an expert on whatever it is you are arguing with them about.

COLUMNIST



BROOKLYN MIDDLETON

Whether it is top-shelf liquor that you are certain you did not get in your drink (I bet you can't tell the difference, but I digress) or a shirt that was on the sale rack but was not actually on sale, you're probably being a jerk about it. In such a case, the following are six steps you can take to avoid the pitfall of being a jerk.

1. Quality:

Bartenders have no problem remaking a drink. They want you to be happy not only because they are good people but also because they want you to continue drinking and spend more money, duh.

However, try to be polite

“**As I said, surely the bartender is more of an expert on drinks than you are, so avoid making them look like they are the idiot.**”

about it and assume that if the bartender cannot understand what you want, it's probably because you are mispronouncing “Pama” and saying “Puma.”

As I said, surely the bartender is more of an expert on drinks than you are, so avoid making them look like they are the idiot. For further notes about ordering see step 4.

2. Tipping:

I get it. You think people should have to work for their tips. You think your tip should be based on service, demeanor, quality and maybe even likeability.

Here is the thing: the vast majority of people in the service industry make a sub-minimum wage because it is expected that their hourly wage will be supplemented with tips.

Furthermore, when you don't

tip because the service was slower than you wanted it to be or because the food or drink was lacking, you are penalizing the server or bartender for variables they have very little control over. Lastly, let me tell you how the restaurant business works.

Servers and bartenders tip out a percentage of their sales— not tips— to support staff members, such as bussers and barbacks. When you don't tip properly, you are often actually taking money from the server or bartender. Don't do this— it sucks.

If you are tempted to do this, imagine each time that you've spent too much time on facebook, twitter or textsfromlastnight.com and didn't finish your office work in as quick of a fashion as you could have, someone comes along and takes a chunk of your money away from you because

you could have been better or tried harder. This is the same idea.

3. Yelling:

Don't ever yell at the checkout clerk or salesperson, no matter what. I cannot emphasize this enough. The same goes when you eat out at a restaurant.

If you wouldn't call your lawyer or accountant a “moron” to their face, don't even think about calling any of the servers, bartenders or salespeople a “moron.” They really do not care if you don't come back to shop, drink or eat there again. Plus, everyone in the establishment will silently be thinking you're a douche.

4. Ordering:

Fancy nicknames for drinks are lame and make the bartender feel bad for not knowing what it is. Don't make the bartender feel bad. You don't want a “Cape Codder,” you actually just want a vodka cranberry.

5. Coupons:

Before expecting to get what you think you rightfully deserve, make sure the coupons you plan to use aren't expired. If they are expired, don't try to use them.

Seriously, don't even bother asking. It's obnoxious and makes you look illiterate and cheap. If you're at a restaurant, tip based on what would have been the total cost without the coupon (apply this to drink specials, too). If you're using a coupon for retail items, make sure to use the coupon for the specific product that the coupon indicates.

6. Slashing your superiority complex:

Assume that outside of the customer-employee dynamic, the employee is probably way cooler and smarter than you. In other words, don't assume that because there was a snafu with your Jäger-bomb or a skirt on sale that the person serving or helping you is intellectually inferior to you.

They're probably just really busy. Imagine someone hovering over your shoulder when you are trying to meet a deadline and ridiculing you for ending a sentence with a preposition. That's how being in customer service is, all the time. Go forth, tip and act accordingly.

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What Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would say about Trayvon

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
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If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had not been gunned down 44 years ago, I wonder what kind of courageous and poetic wisdom he would have imparted upon us in regard to the senseless murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

When it comes to race, America is experiencing an identity crisis. We live in an America where we have a Black president, a man whom, perhaps only 30 years ago, could have easily been mistaken for Trayvon.

But we also live in an America where we have paranoid racists convinced that "walking while black -- WWB," is a dangerous endeavour and a crime punishable by death.

We live in an America where numerous athletic teams, students, mothers, etc. have marched in hoodies to show solidarity with Trayvon and his family.

But we also live in an America, where men in proverbial white hoods recently

served Skittles and iced tea to gatherers at a Klu Klux Klan rally at the Arkansas headquarters of The Knights Party - the only two things Trayvon was armed with the night he was murdered.

It is worth noting the national KKK conference pulled in a total of 80 participants.

The rallies for Trayvon, the facebook posts, the tweets in solidarity with him? Hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions.

Certainly, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have cried with us over the loss of Trayvon.

Certainly, he would have encouraged not a violent response, but a steadfast resistance to accepting this death.

Certainly, he would have smiled a bittersweet smile or his eyes would have filled up with tears, maybe both, when the President of the United States publicly said, "If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon"

But more than anything, I think Dr. King Jr. would have wanted us to not hate George Zimmerman, the man who

“

Dr. King Jr. would have wanted justice for Trayvon and his family, no doubt, but he would also want, as he is famously known to have said, to "not stop there."

”

pursued and killed Trayvon -- that's too easy. It is too easy to hate a monster.

It is difficult, and forces a reevaluation of ideals, to instead hate the system of racial inequality that murder and hatefulness like this are predicated on.

Dr. King Jr. would have wanted justice for Trayvon and his family, no doubt, but he would also want, as he is famously known to have said, to "not stop there."

He would not want us to stop with

Zimmerman being arrested and investigated for murder.

He would not want us to stop until we've addressed the systemic roots of racism.

He would not want us to stop until we have addressed the recent study that more African American males are in jail than there were African American men enslaved in 1850.

Zimmerman stood his ground, he says; now we have to stand ours.

Modern job search forfeits online privacy

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The illusion of online privacy and security is shattering before our eyes. The struggle to remain incognito to our professional peers has become exceedingly difficult due to a new trend in the job market.

Employers, in the process of hiring, have ventured into what many consider to be the ultimate taboo: the surrendering of social media passwords.

In a still-fragile economy, this new prerequisite will undoubtedly cause even more grief to applicants in a fiercely competitive job market.

This process is nothing short of an invasion of privacy, which is already far too simple in this ever-connected world.

In a recent National Public Radio broadcast, corrections officer Robert Collins related his first-hand experience of the social media screening process.

Collins was asked to present his Facebook password when he reapplied to the same facility he had left due to a family-related illness.

When he came back, he was subjected to a fully detailed Facebook search where many other aspects of his profile were carefully analyzed and dissected.

"I felt violated; I felt disrespected. I felt that my privacy was invaded, but

“

Social networks should be places where people can freely express themselves without being judged by employers.

”

not only my privacy, the privacy of my friends and that of my family, that didn't ask for that," said Collins about the screening.

The relevance of social networking information to a person's professional life is highly questionable. It is unfair that future applicants are judged based on whatever they do outside of their occupations.

Prior to social networking, the only relevant information needed for new hires was a background check. What exactly makes it acceptable to require very personal information for a job position is not clear to me.

FIU students are opposed to this unnecessary screening process too.

Melissa Del Toro, sophomore, said, "I think that is absolutely ridiculous and an incredible invasion of privacy."

When asked how relevant social networking information is to employers, Javier Cardona, junior, said, "What we do on our own time should have no effect on our work; therefore, not giving them a valid enough reason to get or ask for our personal passwords. Why even bother creating passwords?" He asks a very poignant question.

Thankfully, there are officials who are giving this process some thought. Senators Charles E. Schumer of New York and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut have contacted the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to begin investigations on agencies using this method of screening to determine its implications.

They are also working on writing laws to further online privacy protection.

With the direction that attitudes toward social networking are trending towards, it seems as if the very essence of it is being restricted.

Social networks should be places where people can freely express themselves without being judged by their employers.

Qualifications for jobs should be strictly based on professional credentials, not personal.

The boundary between work and personal life should be respected if we wish to maintain what sliver of privacy that is left.

VERBATIM

"Politics determines who has the power, not who has the truth."

-Paul Krugman
Economist, Princeton University

"It is possible, through fiction, to turn anguish into a thing of enduring beauty."

-Azar Nafisi
Author of Reading Lolita in Tehran

"You don't need to invade a place or install a new government to help bring about a positive change."

-Nicholas Kristof
Columnist, The New York Times

"I don't know how people function without near-constant internal chaos. I'd lose my mind."

-Dave Eggers
Author of A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius

"All great change in America begins at the dinner table."

-Ronald Reagan
Former U.S. President



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TRANSPORTATION



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

With the City of North Miami being in opposition to the construction of a second entry point to the Biscayne Bay Campus, commuters weigh in on the daily bottleneck.

Three schools. One roadway. Big problem all around

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Screaming kids, impatient students, and the occasional napper behind the wheel are just a few of the sights as drivers attempt to leave the Biscayne Bay Campus during school zone hours.

Northeast 151st Street in North Miami is lined with a university, two relatively new schools, and only one way to enter and exit for parents, students and staff.

"It is absolutely ridiculous," said Janice Graham, a parent of a 10-year-old at David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Educational Center, a school just several hundred feet between BBC and Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School.

The location of the three schools and their proximity to the wetlands poses a unique problem, according to Lawrence Principal Bernard Osborn.

"It is so terrible and so crowded," said Gloria Uquillas, a mother at Lawrence. "It takes a lot of time to go home."

The surrounding habitat restricts

building, and although plans for the schools were discussed prior to their construction, it doesn't look like there is much hope for making another exit.

"There were not many options," Osborn said.

The dilemma of building another entrance raised concerns from environmentalists who believe that construction would endanger the mangrove habitat. Others, however, worried that an emergency evacuation would become an emergency in its own right due to the number of people in the three schools.

An effort to extend N.E. 135th Street as a second entrance was shut down by the North Miami City Council last fall.

When all three institutions release at the same time, drivers and their passengers are forced to sit through the slowly moving convoy of vehicles.

Parents also complain about the design of the medians and the University's speeding drivers.

Alec Evedon, a senior at Alonzo Mourning who takes the city bus home with his twin brother, said school buses severely restrict traffic. Rather than being held back by the situation,

he walks to a city bus stop down the road and across a busy intersection to avoid waiting on a bus in traffic.

"It takes 15 minutes just to get to the traffic light at the end of the street on a bus," said Evedon. "I walk faster than the bus. I always beat it."

Drivers from Alonzo Mourning, the closest school to Biscayne Boulevard, hold up drivers from the University, who in turn make it difficult for David Lawrence Jr. parents to even exit their own parking lot.

Graham compared the delay to movie theater lines.

"People can't get in because people can't get out," she said.

Senior Jared Piniero of Alonzo Mourning said that even though his school has the shortest wait time of all three, the situation is still aggravating.

"I don't know why there is only one way out for so many people," he said.

Osborn has spoken with several parents and has also complained to the county, although nothing further has been discussed. He said that the school considers it a "daily challenge."

Chauffeurs of the Golden Panther Express, the shuttle commuting from

Modesto Maidique Campus and BBC, must also deal with the crowded nuisances during school zone hours after 1 p.m.

"The only problem I have is the kids from the elementary schools are not using the crosswalks." GPE chauffeur William Anderson said. "They cut diagonally through traffic instead of using the crosswalks and it adds to the traffic. There needs to be an officer or a school monitor there."

The traffic congestion has caused David Lawrence Jr. and Alonzo Mourning to use their own faculty and staff to control the congestion.

Osborn and other staff at Lawrence sometimes step outside of their offices and direct traffic. They stop traffic from FIU and enable their school's parents to enter onto the main road.

Sally Alayon, principal of Alonzo Mourning High, has the school police officer and school security to assist at the end of the day.

Uquillas, one of the frustrated Lawrence parents, said the faculty members' efforts sometimes make the situation worse, but Graham said she thinks the schools' presence has been effective in portioning out the traffic

and that their efforts are successful on the days that they assist.

She didn't say the same about the police.

"They are not out there as often as I think they should be," she said.

Lt. Richard Torres of the FIU police said the department offered its assistance at the beginning of the school year when it believed the schools need it most, and only because of their proximity to the college campus.

He said the department does not continue to control traffic because it was not its responsibility, but rather the responsibility of the Miami-Dade County School district.

Unfortunately, Osborn said, parents do not follow common courtesy rules and that he has called the police to intervene on a few occasions.

"We ask [the parents] to practice the core values of patience and understanding," he said.

Additional reporting by Nadra Mabrouk.

This story was researched and written for JOURNALISM 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

ENVIRONMENT

State agency sets up shop on entry way to campus

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Just footsteps away from the pristine waters of Biscayne Bay and Biscayne Bay Campus is a building considered to be one of the most important forms of environmental protection: the law enforcement office for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's South Region.

As the result of a state constitutional amendment passed in 1999, the Florida Marine Patrol and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission were merged to create one commission, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

"The land was donated to the agency by a fellow state agency and FWC then utilized grant money from Florida Inland Navigation District to construct the building. No taxpayer dollars had to be used for land or construction," said

Curt Kaloostian, lieutenant at the office near Biscayne Bay.

While the mission of the FWC is to "manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people," the law enforcement division helps to enforce rules and regulations on both a state and federal level. The office for law enforcement contains investigators, command staff, evidence compounds, and equipment for the south Florida region.

"For a patrol officer, he/she routinely patrols either coastal waters, inland water bodies, or public/private lands, enforcing state boating safety equipment/registration/ navigational laws, marine [recreational/commercial] fisheries laws, freshwater fisheries laws, hunting and game management laws," Kaloostian said.

According to Law Enforcement Officer Jorge Pino, the location of the office, adjacent to BBC, is "advantageous" and makes sense because of its proximity to the Biscayne Bay.

"The FWC is tasked with protecting Florida's natural resources and the people that enjoy them," Pino said. "Not only are we responsible for patrolling Florida's coastline but also the interior woods and waterways of the state."

The division also often conducts search and rescue missions throughout the state which have resulted in over 1,000 saved lives per year.

In instances of natural disasters, FWC law enforcement officers are often first to arrive at a scene, because they have the necessary equipment and means to reach often inaccessible locations.

"We also respond to most incidents where someone is lost and in need of help. As a law enforcement agency, we are at the ready to respond to any and all distress calls 24 hours a day seven days a week," Pino said.

The FWC also works alongside other local, state, and federal agencies for specialized training and projects which include the trans-

planting and growing of coral, assisting in the vast Everglades restoration effort, and managing seasonal events such as lobster season and turtle hatching season.

Chuck Collins, director for the South Region stresses the importance of protecting the "unique and diverse environments" which are unique to Florida.

Collins' students volunteer with Florida environmental agencies and groups, and there are other careers not limited to science and biology majors. Students can get internships with the commission.

As in the case of the increase in raccoon populations due to human feeding, Collins stresses the need to educate the public about the environment, specifically not feeding wildlife which creates nuisance animals.

"There is always a consequence to our actions and those need to be thought through," Collins said.